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ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS

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US Embassy Launches New Electronic Visa Application Form

Kuala Lumpur -- The U.S. Embassy introduced a new online nonimmigrant visa application form – the DS-160 -- on February 15, 2010. The form will become mandatory on March 1. All applicants for nonimmigrant visas who schedule visa interviews on or after March 1 will be required to use the new form.

The DS-160 should be easier and quicker for most applicants than the previous application forms. The new application form is completely web-based -- once completed by the applicant, all data on the form is electronically transmitted to the Consular Section at the U.S. Embassy. Applicants need only print out a confirmation page to bring with them to the Embassy for their interviews.

The DS-160 offers applicants several advantages over the previous application form:

- Replaces three previous forms, (DS-156, DS-157 and DS-158) and eliminated the need to determine whether supplemental forms are required.
- Features “pop-up” translations of questions in several languages.
- The web application includes many helpful tips on how to complete particular questions.
- The DS-160 has a “family and group” feature, which can save time by allowing applicants to fill in identical data (e.g., address and phone numbers, trip information) one time to share among multiple applications.
- The online form can be saved and completed later, if an applicant cannot complete it in one sitting.
- Data entered into the new DS-160 can be saved and re-used in future applications.

The DS-160 form can be accessed online at <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>. An extensive list of Frequently Asked Questions is available at http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/forms/forms_4401.html.

Other than the new online application form, the process to apply for a visa at the U.S. Embassy remains the same:

- Complete a DS-160 online application form, available at <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>
- Pay the required fees at any branch of Alliance Bank.
- Go to <https://www.vfs-usa-my.com/Home.aspx> to make an appointment. Appointments are normally available within a few days.
- Come to the U.S. Embassy at the appointed date and time for an interview.
- Approved visas are normally available the first business day after your interview.

Further information about the visa application process is available at <http://malaysia.usembassy.gov/niv.html>.